

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 01507 071256Z

42

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NIC-01 IO-10 ACDA-05 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 /089 W

----- 067095

R 070850Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2607

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USDEL JEC PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 1507

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TH, VN

SUBJECT: DRV SECOND LETTER TO THAI MORE CONCILIATORY

REF: A) SAIGON 15011 B) FBIS BK301806 JAN 75

SUMMARY: DRV FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN DUY TRINH HAS SENT A SECOND LETTER TO HIS THAI COUNTERPART PROPOSING CONDITIONS FOR TALKS AIMED AT NORMALIZING DRV/THAI RELATIONS (REF B). THE SECOND LETTER IS CONSIDERABLY LESS HARSH IN TONE THAN ITS PREDECESSOR. WHILE STILL DEMANDING THE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. FORCES FROM THAILAND, TRINH ATTRIBUTED U.S. PRESENCE TO THANOM-PRAPHAT ADMINISTRATION, WHICH "WAS OVERTHROWN BY THE THAI PEOPLE", BUT INSISTS THAT RTG "SHOW BY PRACTICAL ACTIONS" ITS GOOD FAITH BEFORE DRV AGREES TO BILATERAL TALKS. INGRATIATING TONE AND TIMING (ONE DAY AFTER THAI ELECTIONS) INDICATE LETTER IS AIMED AT FUTURE GOVERNMENT RATHER THAN PRESENT ONE. END SUMMARY.

1. DRV FONMIN'S SECOND LETTER TO THAI FONMIN, DATED JANUARY 25

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 01507 071256Z

AND RELEASED BY VNA JANUARY 30, SHOWED MORE FINESSE THAN ITS

PRECURSOR OF NOVEMBER 27. WHEREAS NOVEMBER LETTER CHARGED RTG WITH "COUNTLESS CRIMES" AGAINST INDOCHINA AND STRIDENTLY DEMANDS THAT RTG "COMPLETELY AND PERMANENTLY" RID THAILAND OF U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE, THE NEW LETTER IS MUCH MORE CONCILIATORY AND SUAVE IN MAKING ESSENTIALLY THE SAME POINTS.

2. FONMIN TRINH'S SECOND LETTER BEGINS BY EXPRESSING DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THAI RESPONSE OF DECEMBER 26 DID NOT MENTION U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE AND THAT ITS CHARACTERIZATION OF INDOCHINA SITUATION DOES NOT "CONFORM TO THE FACTS OF HISTORY." IN RECOUNTING ITS VERSION OF THE FACTS, HOWEVER, THE DRV LETTER BLAMES U.S. PRESENCE ON THE THANOM-PRAPHAT ADMINISTRATION WHICH, IT NOTES, "WAS OVERTHROWN BY THE THAI PEOPLE. THIS OFFERS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR THE THAI GOVERNMENT TO ADOPT A POLICY OF INDEPENDENCE." THE PRESENT RTG DOES NOT GET COMPLETELY OFF THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S HOOK, THOUGH, SINCE HE CLAIMS THAT CONTINUING TO ALLOW THE US TO OPERATE FROM THAILAND "CONSTITUTES A VIOLATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT" (WHICH THAILAND, OF COURSE, DID NOT SIGN). IN A SUPRISINGLY LIGHT TAP ON THE THAI WRIST, HANOI REMINDS THE RTG THAT "SUCH A POLICY IS INCONSISTENT WITH THE THAI GOVERNMENT'S STATEMENTS ABOUT ITS DESIRE TO ENTERTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES." THE LETTER GOES ON TO INFORM THE RTG OF ITS "DEMAND THAT THE U.S. STOP USING ITS BASES IN THAILAND TO CARRY OUT HOSTILE ACTS." THE LETTER THEN FLATTERS THE THAIS WITH EXPRESSIONS OF "HIGH ESTEEM" AND CALLS THAILAND "A NATION LOVING PEACE, INDEPENDENCE AND FREEDOM," PROMISING THAT IMPROVED DRV/THAI RELATIONS "WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE CREATION OF A ZONE OF PEACE" IN THE REGION.

3. THREE "PRINCIPLES" ARE LISTED, CONSTITUTING APPARENTLY DRV'S PRECONDITIONS FOR NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BUT NOT NECESSARILY FOR INITIAL TALKS. THE STINGER IS THAT "THE THAI SIDE MUST NOT ALLOW THE U.S. TO USE THAI TERRITORY AGAINST THE PEOPLES OF VIETNAM AND THE OTHER INDOCHINESE COUNTRIES," ALTHOUGH BOTH PARTIES WOULD UNDERTAKE NOT TO PARTICIPATE "EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY IN ANY ACT THAT MAY HARM EACH OTHER'S INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY, UNITY, AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY." FINALLY, THE LETTER PROMISES THAT "IF THE THAI GOVERNMENT SHOWS BY PRACTICAL ACTIONS ITS DESIRE" FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS, "THE DRV SAIDE IS PREPARED TO MEET THE THAI SIDE AND DISCUSS THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS... ON THE BASIS OF THESE PRINCIPLES."

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 01507 071256Z

4. COMMENT: HANOI SEEMS TO BE HOLDING OUT AN OLIVE BRANCH WITH FEWER OBVIOUS THORNS THIS TIME. THE LETTER FALLS SHORT OF MAKING A FLAT DEMAND THAT THE THAIS FORCE THE REMOVAL OF THE U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE FROM THAI BASES BEFORE RELATIONS CAN IMPROVE, USING INSTEAD LANGUAGE SEEMINGLY DIRECTED AT RESTRICTING THE USE THAT MIGHT BE MADE OF U.S. FORCES IN THAILAND. THE OPENING OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN

THE
TWO COUNTRIES IS MADE SUBJECT ONLY TO UNDEFINED "PRACTICAL ACTIONS"
THAT THE THAI GOVERNMENT MUST UNDERTAKE TO SHOW ITS DESIRE
FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS. MOREOVER, BY BLAMING THE PRESENCE OF THE
BASES ON PREVIOUS THAI GOVERNMENTS, THE LETTER APPEARS TO BE
MAKING A SEDUCTIVE PITCH PAST EVEN THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT TO
WHATEVER NEW GROUP EMERGES FROM THE THAI ELECTIONS, HELD THE
DAY BEFORE THE DRV LETTER WAS DATED. AS USUAL, HOWEVER, THE DRV
RESERVES FOR ITSELF THE DETERMINATION OF WHAT "PRACTICAL ACTIONS"
THE RTG MUST TAKE TO GET TALKS GOING, AND ONE CAN BE SURE THE
U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IS A SUBJECT THA DRV WOULD IMMEDIATELY
RAISE IN ANY DISCUSSION.
LEHMANN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, NEGOTIATIONS, MILITARY BASE CLOSINGS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SAIGON01507
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750045-0670
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750262/aaaacdqr.tel
Line Count: 128
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 SAIGON 15011, 75 FBIS BK301806, 75 JAN 75
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 MAY 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <15 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DRV SECOND LETTER TO THAI MORE CONCILIATORY
TAGS: PFOR, TH, VN, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006